

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0185

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASS LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0212

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, SF, PDEV

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY REACHED ON WHITE
REPRESENTATION:

1. SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST IAN BLACK REPORTS FROM SALISBURY
THAT DURING A SPIRITED TWO AND A HALF HOUR SESSION AMONG THE
FOUR PRINCIPALS IN THE SALISBURY TALKS ON JANUARY 11,
IT WAS "GENERALLY ACCEPTED" THAT TWENTY-EIGHT SEATS WOULD BE
RESERVED FOR WHITE MEMBERS IN THE PARLIAMENT. BLACK REPORTS THAT
SITHOLE
AND GABELLAH LEFT THE MEETING FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES TO DISCUSS
THIS PROPOSAL BY SMITH; WHEN THEY RETURNED THEY INDICATED THEY WOULD
ACCEPT THE FIGURE. ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS, SMITH WAS GIVEN
THE GO-AHEAD BY THE RHODESIAN FRONT PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS
AT A MORNING MEETING ON JANUARY 11 TO SETTLE FOR TWENTY-SEVEN
WHITE SEATS. THE CAUCUS REPORTEDLY MADE THE PROVISIO THAT THE
SPECIAL WHITE MEMBERS MUST BE ELECTED ON A SEPARATE ROLL.

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2. ACCORDING TO BLACK'S REPORT, SMITH IS NOW SEEKING A GUARANTEE THAT
ANY PROPOSED CHANGES IN ENTRENCHED CLAUSES IN THE CONSTITUTION
MUST BE RATIFIED BY SEVENTY-TWO BLACK MP'S AND SIX WHITES.
(IN OTHER WORDS, ANY CHANGES IN THE ENTRENCHED CLAUSES WOULD HAVE TO
BE
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BLACK MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND IN

ADDITION BY SIX OF THE TWENTY-EIGHT WHITE MEMBERS.)

3. BLACK REPORTS THAT SMITH IS DEMANDING THAT THE SPECIAL TWENTY-EIGHT WHITE SEATS SHOULD BE GUARANTEED FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN YEARS, BUT SITHOLE IS PROPOSING FIVE YEARS WHILE MUZOREWA IS SUGGESTING EITHER EIGHT YEARS OR THE DURATION OF TWO PARLIAMENTS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER.

4. THE RAND DAILY MAIL CORRESPONDENT IN SALISBURY REPORTS THAT THE NEXT ISSUE TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER AGREEMENT ON WHITE REPRESENTATION WILL BE THE COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL ARMY. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, SITHOLE AT APRESSCONFERENCE IN SALISBURY ON JANUARY 11, SAID SMITH SHOULD NOT EXPECT EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL ARMY. IAN BLACK REPORTS THAT NATIONALIST SOURCES SAY SMITH HAS ALREADY AGREED TO STAND DOWN THE SELOUS SCOUTS AND GREY'S SCOUTS, BUT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT IN RETURN HE MUST BE GIVEN CONCRETE ASSURANCES ABOUT HE ARMED FORCES COMMAND STRUCTURE. BOWDLER

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